
TUCSON PIMA COLLABORATION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Tucson Homeless Connect Committee

August 11, 2011 Minutes

Chair: Rick Sumner

Next meeting: Thursday, September 8, 2011, 1:30-2:50 p.m. Rillito-Sabino Rm. Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop
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Report to General Council

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| ■ More than 258 individuals served at July 29 th event |
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TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. **Minutes.** Don Blascak moved and Chayo Long-Mendez seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as presented. **Motion passed.**
2. **Review of July 29th event.**
 - **Venue.** Rick noted that several committee members' experiences negative responses from two Dunbar Center staff to requests for assistance, even before the event began, especially with cooling issues and a cracked stair. Committee members observed several instances of Dunbar staff being rude to event guests. Several committee members noted that family members of Dunbar staff were at the event requesting services. The committee paid \$945 for use of those facilities. Pam Moseley noted that she received provider comments that it was too hot and Trinity Presbyterian Church was a preferred site.

Leslie Carlson suggested that the committee send a letter to the Dunbar board and director expressing their appreciation for the facility and their efforts, and their dismay about the lack of respect displayed by Dunbar staff and the facility issues.

 - **Next step. a.)** The committee will seek to find out when Trinity will again be available for hosting Tucson Homeless Connect.
 - **b.)** Rick will draft a letter to the Dunbar Cultural Center expressing appreciation for them and their mission and the committee's hope that they will take steps to ensure that future customers do not have similar negative experiences.
 - **Volunteers' feedback.** Kathleen Joy reported. There were 113 volunteers, including the committee volunteers. The majority of volunteers were delighted to be there. Congregational participation was high and included a large number of repeat volunteers. Ninety-five percent of the volunteers said that the event was "very well organized". Several volunteers requested earlier and more intense training instead of just-in-time-training only.
 - **Providers' feedback.** Pam Moseley said that providers requested more sign up sheets or more spaces on the sign-in sheets. She believes that service numbers may be lower than counted because of the lack of guest sign
 - **Guests.** A total of 258 registration and 231 exit forms were gathered. Data on the exact number of attendees is not yet available because children were counted on the parent/guardian's form. Services delivered included: 55 eye screenings; 9 people assisted with benefits applications or appeals by attorney Art Gage; more than 100 haircuts; 81 IDs, the largest number ever provided at Tucson Homeless Connect; a large number of health screenings, including 20 by El Rio Clinic and 19 by Hope, Inc.; vaccinations of 11 dogs; and 300 bus passes.

In addition, a number of guests received nightly shelter: five at the Primavera Men's Shelter, four at Gospel Rescue Mission men's shelter; nine at the Gospel Rescue Mission Women's Shelter and some at the Salvation Army as well.

Review of July 29th event cont'd.

- **Other feedback.**

Adding behavioral health enrollment to the event was suggested. It was noted that such enrollment did occur as RAPP enrolled two people in behavioral health services.

The Community Food Bank expressed gratitude for being located next to the Department of Economic Security's Family Assistance Administration because the Food Bank was able to begin gathering the information for the FAA application for nutritional assistance.

The bike repair providers reported that they were delighted to be there, would like to come back, and may be able to help with outreach for the next event.

The youth services providers expressed satisfaction with the increased number of youth attending. Pam noted that it would be a good idea to hold the next event on a day when school is in session, and to alert the school district McKinney-Vento liaisons that they can bring homeless youth and at-risk families to the event.

Pam noted that the overall feedback was extremely positive. She said that she observed that a number of health services – perhaps in substitution for information provided – that should be added. She added that the nurse doing lice checks on guests seeking haircuts found several people who had head lice and suggested that lice shampoo be provided.

She added that provider feedback forms included a suggestion to color-code signs and areas of the event, and to provide smoking cessation information.

- **Food.** Glenn Fournie said that the cost of the food at this event was reasonable and that working with Kelly Edwards of the Gospel Rescue Mission was very easy. He said that, by count of the buns and chips, between 300 and 350 meals were served. He stated that the City of Tucson employees would like to again provide breakfast burritos for the winter event.

3. Next Meeting. Thursday, September 8th, 1:30-2:50 p.m., Rillito-Sabino Room, City Sentinel Building, 320 N. Commerce Park Loop.

Attendance

Name		Organization	Email
Don	Blascak	American Red Cross	dblascak@comcast.net
Art	Gage	Law Offices of Arthur V. Gage	artgagelaw@yahoo.com
Stan	Hamnett	Gospel Rescue Mission	stanhamnett@gmail.com
Glenn	Fournie	City of Tucson	glenn.fournie@tucsonaz.gov
Kathleen	Joy	American Red Cross/AmeriCorps	kjoy@redcrossarizona.org
Phyllis	Lim	Community advocate	pel0821@aol.com
Chayo	Long-Mendez	Hope, Inc	chayolongmendez@hopetucson.org
Rick	Sumner	Primavera Foundation	rsumner@primavera.org